

Appl. No. 10/037,508
Amdt. dated February 1, 2006
Reply to final Office action of November 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the final Office action dated November 28, 2005, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-14, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by "Sun Fire 6800 Server" (hereinafter "6800"); 2) rejected claims 2 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over 6800 in view of Kistler (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0198934, hereinafter "Kistler"); and 3) rejected claims 6-9 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over 6800 in view of Frostrom (U.S. Pat. No. 6,561,827, hereinafter "Frostrom"). With this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 6, 10, and 15 and cancel claims 7-9, 16-18, and 20.

Previously, claim 1 required a "coupling device" which, over the telephone on January 23, 2006, the Examiner explained was the patch panel in the 6800 reference. Applicants have amended claim 1 to replace "coupling device" with "control logic." The patch panel in the 6800 reference certainly is not "control logic" of any kind. For at least this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. The same or similar amendments were made to independent claim 10 and thus claim 10 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.


In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are

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hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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